GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2190
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2016
Use of Audio-Video Recordings
Kalvakuntla Smt. Kavitha;Reddy Shri Ch. Malla

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken regarding audio-video recording of court proceedings in the country;
(b) if so, the details and the present status thereof;
(c) whether the Government proposes to make use of digital technology for conducting hearings and recordings of evidences in the courts;
(d) if so, the details and the present status thereof; and
(e) the expenditure likely to be incurred for the purpose?

Answer

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW &JUSTICE
(SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

(a) to (b):The Government has been receiving suggestions for the implementation of audio-video recording of court proceedings. The issue has also been discussed in the meetings of Advisory Council of National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms.In the meeting of eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India held on 8th January, 2014, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) advised deferment of audio-video recording of court proceedings as this would require consultations with Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts. Minister of Law and Justice has written to Chief Justice of India on 10th July, 2015 and subsequently on 20th January, 2016 requesting him to consider the proposal of Audio-video recording. Reply of CJI is awaited.

(c) to (e): The Government of India has proposed implementation of Video Conferencing (VC) facility between Courts and Jails. VC has been piloted in five districts under the supervision of eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India. Based on the experience of pilots, it was decided in consultation with the eCommittee to provide VC facilities for 488 Court complexes and 342 jails out of which equipment has been delivered at 667 locations. Apart from VC facilities being provided under the eCourts Project, some States have implemented VC in courts from their own resources also. The Phase II of eCourts proposes for installation of Video Conferencing at the cost of Rs.33.10 Cr which will be used initially for recording evidence insensitive cases and gradually extended to cover as many types of cases as possible.